

March 21, 2006

Dear Futures Committee Member,

On behalf of the three agencies of the newly formed Consortium (Clara Martin Center, Howard Center for Human Services, and Washington County Mental Health) I want to both offer appreciation of your efforts and provide new information regarding our efforts to locate a Community Recovery Residence. As we had understood from the agreement of the Committee regarding respect for notice to local towns, we did not discuss in yesterday's meeting our having begun serious work to locate a CRR in Williamstown at the site of the Autumn Harvest Inn. I am certain that there are issues to be discussed about location, facility needs, and other aspects of this site, but I first want to offer a bit on how we came to chose it.

Since early January we have been discussing site location with Peter Holmberg of Holmberg Construction who had been sought out by VDH to help with finding an appropriate site. Peter located the Inn and has been working (quietly) with the Consortium and the current owner to explore whether this was a workable location. A recent final walk through with an architect indicated that we and Peter were in agreement that the Inn was a site that met the needs of a CRR for a rural location. Thus, we confirmed this with the Division of Mental Health, and with consultation with AHS Secretary Cindy LaWare, and other within the Administration that it was time to "go public" with the next steps of the process.

During this effort we have consulted with some members of the community to allow for other input. We did so, however, on the promise that these persons would not disclose the information as we wanted the first public news of this effort to be given first to the Williamstown Select Board and Town Manager. All of those who we asked to join on this condition did so and have kept to their promise. Without this input we would have been very much more unable to have a broad review of this effort and it is greatly appreciated.

Last night Paul Dupre, Beth Tanzman, Peter Holmberg, Jeanne B. Kennedy, an aid to the cause, and myself met first with the Town Manager JoEllen Eyer, two town citizens, Marie Frolich and Larry Hebert, and Senator Mark MacDonald to further discuss this effort and the implications for Williamstown as a host. Following this meeting we met with the Town Select Board briefly to give formal notice of our efforts. As expected there were many questions, and not enough time to ask and answer all of them within the context of a regular Select Board meeting. We will be talking with the town officers to schedule a return meeting specifically regarding the Inn and are making plans to have a

number of community forums involving town citizens, the Consortium, and consumers and family members.

There are many challenges ahead in the further development of both this site, and a second site that the Consortium would like to establish in a village/town setting. While the development of these sites requires a high degree of confidentiality at the outset, from this point onward regarding the Williamstown site we are willing and eager to offer information on planning and development on a regular basis.

Respectfully,

Linda Chambers, Clara Martin Center

Todd Centybear, Howard Center for Human Services

Paul Dupre, Washington County Mental Health Services

Michael Hartman, Washington County Mental Health Services